

Retrospective Documents Cataloging Feasibility Study Proposed By GPO

The Government Printing Office Depository Library collection of Government documents at last count contained 2,107,051 individual titles. The collection is presently housed with the National Archives and Records Service, although it remains the property of GPO. The collection has been gathered by the Library Division staff since 1895 and is the most complete collection of Government documents known to exist today. The collection can only be accessed through printed indexes spanning 80 years in a variety of publications.

GPO has proposed the Council on Library Resources undertake a feasibility study and economic analysis to determine the cost and advisability of cataloging the entire collection, using the Ohio College Library Center and the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules. Such a plan, if economically sound, would benefit the nation's library community by providing electronic search and the generation on demand of indexes and bibliographies through computer manipulation. In cooperation with the Library of Congress, magnetic output tapes could be made available to other networking systems throughout the country, thereby facilitating bibliographic control of government documentation.

Council Meeting Well Attended

Meeting in Arlington, Virginia, October 21-22, 1976, members of the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer, GPO staff people, and many attending documents librarians were welcomed by Thomas F. McCormick (Public Printer), Carl A. LaBarre (Superintendent of Documents), and Bernadine Hoduski (representing the Staff Director of the Joint Committee on Printing).

Reports by GPO staff members were given on: "Monthly Catalog Status and OCLC," "Depository Library Inspection," "Non-GPO Documentation Acquisitions," "New Sur-

veys," "Depository Library Designations," "Status of GPO Micro-publishing Project," "Status of 'NS' Project and Planned Automation of Item Books," "Depository Library Use of Publications Reference File," "GPO Library Committee and Workshop Participation," and "Status of GPO Sales Service."

A time and place for the next Depository Library Council meeting were chosen: April 25-26, 1977, in Boulder, Colorado. Everyone interested in documents is most welcome to attend.

Standards & Guidelines Move Forward At Council

The revised version of the "Proposed Standards & Guidelines" was presented by Committee Chairperson Catharine J. Reynolds (University of Colorado at Boulder) and the Editor of HIGHLIGHTS to the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer at the meeting in Arlington, Virginia.

Enthusiastic comments and criticism had been received from documents librarians all over the country on the earlier version of this significant set of proposals. The Committee incorporated a great many of these into the new version.

Council members examined this draft point by point and made only a few changes. Unanimous endorsement was then given to the "Standards & Guidelines."

The Superintendent of Documents accepted the draft and said he would turn it over to GPO's legal counsel for examination in the light of existing laws. Council requested that when the final version becomes available it be published in HIGHLIGHTS and used by depository libraries.



We Hear You!

GPO recently put the searchlight on the area of handling customer complaints. A nationally known consultant firm, Fenvessey Associates of New York City, found considerable improvement in the customer complaint handling service. They stated: "On a scale of one to ten, GPO would rate about 7.5 and is climbing fast."

The Fenvessey study also revealed: (1) GPO ranks among the top five mail order houses on the basis of sales revenues; (2) GPO processes more than 420 different subscriptions, compared with a top of about 50 by the largest fulfill-



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ment firm in private industry; (3) Despite its volume, GPO does not rank among the chief targets of complaints about the Federal Government.



NOW WE KNOW WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT! Library and Statutory Distribution Service staff members who participated in a recent course, "An Introduction to the Superintendent of Documents Classification System." Objectives of the course were: (1) Developing a basic understanding of the System; (2) Recognizing

the relationship between the organizational structure of Government Agencies and the System; (3) Learning how to classify numbered publications. The instructors for this course were Leonard Hodges and Norman Barbee, both from the Library Division.

Special Needs

If your depository library has some special needs of a general or specific nature, let us know. Below are some recent requests. If you can offer discards, write the requesting depository a letter (sending a copy to your regional). The library accepting the material agrees to pay any postage and packing costs that may be necessary.

U.S. Statutes at Large, vols. 17 & 27.

Alan Edward Schorr
Government Publications Librarian
Elmer E. Rasmuson Library
University of Alaska
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Cumulated Index Medicus, vol. 9, pts. 6 to end of vol.; 11, pts. 1-4.

Congressional Record, vol. 117, pt. 23; vol. 118, pts. 13-24, 32.

Ms. Jean M. Peters
Documents Librarian
Charles A. Dana Library
Stetson University College of Law
1401—61st Street South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33707

Digest of International Law (Hackworth series), 1940-4, vols. 1, 3-8.

Digest of International Law (Whiteman series), 1963, vol. 2.

Ms. Victoria E. Hargrave, Librarian
Henry Pfeiffer Library
MacMurray College
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650

FCC Reports, vol. 42, 2nd seri

Treaties and Other International Agreements of the U.S., 1776-1949, vol. 1 (Dabney).

Questions and Answers



Mrs. Karen S. Curtis
Assistant Law Librarian
School of Law Library
Washburn University of Topeka
Topeka, Kansas 66621

Monthly Catalog, any complete years before 1959.

Numerical List & Schedule of Volumes, all issues.

Serial Set, any volumes prior to number 12713 (89th Congress, 2nd Session).

Ms. Jean Bell
Documents Librarian
University of Maryland Law Library
500 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

U.S. Statutes at Large, vol. 9; vol. 18, pts. 2-3; vols. 26, 30; vol. 35, pt. 1; vol. 36, pt. 1.

Paul Axel-Lute
Federal Documents Librarian
Law School Library
Rutgers University
180 University Avenue
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Resources in Education, 1975, vol. 10, nos. 2, 10, 11, 12; 1976, vol. 11, no. 1.

Ms. Sherry Mosley
Documents Librarian
Dowling College Library
Idle Hour Boulevard
Oakdale, Long Island, New York 11769

U.S. Statutes at Large, vol. 84, pt. 1; and copies for the years 1960-1969.

Continued on page 4

We have requested that OCLC provide GPO with the means to input the SuDocs number into all the data base records. This "lock" should be available to GPO in the near future. GPO is also seeking to have the Library of Congress distribute our cataloging on magnetic tape through its Cataloging Distribution Service.

Internally, the GPO Library is making the cataloging of most recently received documents its number one priority. The ideal is for the depository libraries to be able to retrieve cataloging via OCLC the same day they receive their shipments. This is our goal.

Q. Librarian M. Mashburn of the Atlanta Public Library writes asking "What is the rationale of the current method of handling survey items?"

A. More than 500 new Item Surveys have been completed so far this year. The pace of Surveys will continue throughout 1977. Our building does not have space available to retain pallet upon pallet of Survey material for an extended period of time. We allow a full ten weeks from the start of a Survey to its completion. During that period new pallets arrive awaiting completion of the Survey.

We have found that printing the response cards on the Shipping List is far more economical than having to print, collate, insert and ship 2,400 individual cards on each Survey Item. We have shipped complete new sets of Item Selection Cards to all Depositories and will update those cards on an annual basis. This work was done on contract and relieved our Office of having to dedicate additional employees to the collation task.

- Continued from page 3
- Ms. Margaret G. Bronner
Documents Librarian
James M. Milne Library
State University College
Oneonta, New York 13820
- U.S. Statutes at Large, vol. 78.
- Tom Larson
Documents Librarian
Penfield Library
State University College
Oswego, New York 13126
- 1960 Census of Population, & 1960
Census of Housing, final volumes of
both only.
- Ms. Judith Koopman
Documents Librarian
State University of New York Library
Purchase, New York 10577
- Congressional Record Index, vol.
121, nos. 7, 13 to end; vol. 122, no.
1 to end.
- Mr. H. F. Dade, Chief
Documents Department
J. Y. Joyner Library
East Carolina University
Greenville, North Carolina 27834
- Congressional Record Index, vol.
58, pt. 9.
- Earl Shumaker, Head
Government Documents Depart-
ment
Ohio University Library
Athens, Ohio 45701
- Research in Education, 1974, vol. 9,
nos. 7-12.
- Resources in Education, 1975, vol.
10, nos. 1-12.
- Ms. Maribeth Petercsak
Government Documents Librarian
Otterbein College
Westerville, Ohio 43081
- Numerical List & Schedule of Vol-
umes, 86th through 90th Congress.
- Mrs. Judith A. Blevins
Government Documents Assistant
Technical Services Division
Andrews Library
The College of Wooster
Wooster, Ohio 44691
- Cumulated Index Medicus, vol. 13,
sections 1-4.
- U.S. Reports, vols. 282-358, 361,
365-367.
- U.S. Statutes at Large, vols. 31-49;
vol. 53, pt. 3; vol. 54, pt. 2; vol. 61,
pt. 3; vol. 64, pt. 2; vol. 65.
- Miss Louisa Cartledge
Reference Librarian
Furman University Library
Greenville, South Carolina 29613
- Monthly Checklist of State Publica-
tions, vol. 66, no. 5 (May 1975).
- Mrs. Bang Kim
Documents Librarian
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Brookings, South Dakota 57006



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